VIII. *A preternatural Perforation found in the upper Part of the* Stomach, *with the* Symptoms *it produc'd, by Mr.* Chriſtopher Rawlinſon, *Surgeon.*

James Skidmore had complain'd for Three or Four Years laſt paſt, of a violent Pain in his Stomach and Bowels, never being able to reſt in his Bed at Night, 'till he had vomited up the greateſt Part of what he had eat or drank the Day before. He would often compare his Pain to ſome great Weight laying upon the Region of the Stomach, which he in ſome Meaſure alleviated, by preſſing hard with his Hand upon that Part. When he turn'd himſelf in Bed from one Side to the other, he told me, he could plainly perceive that ſome Fluid or other fell down with Noiſe to the depending Side; which Fluid he believ'd to be the Occaſion of all his Miſery: For which Reaſon he often ſaid, he would willingly conſent, nay, often earneſtly preſs'd that the Surgeons would cut him open (as he expreſſed it) and let it out.

He had no apparent *Tumour* upon the Part, nor was his Belly more *extended* than uſual. He had had the Advice of ſeveral able Phyſicians before he came into the Hoſpital, but all without the leaſt Amendment to his Diſeaſe. When he died we were deſired to open him, and try if we could find out the Cauſe of his Complaints. As ſoon as we had penetrated the *Peritonæum*, there flow'd out a whitiſh Liquor, not much unlike to *Whey*, only a little more thick and fæculent;

nor did it emit ſo noiſom a Smell as might be expected from its long Reſidence in that Place. We computed there were above Four Quarts of this Liquor contain'd in the *Cavity* of the *Abdomen.*

When we came at the *Stomach* we found it *perforated* in its *upper* Part, about the middle Space betwixt the Two Orifices, wide enough to contain the End of one's Finger. We cut it open Length-ways, and found it pretty full of a thick glutinous Matter, inclining to be yellow; and to its inner Coat, on the lower Side, there firmly adher'd the Stone of a *Prune*, or ſome other Fruit reſembling it. On its Inſide, near the preternatural Perforation, 'twas gangreen'd for two or three Inches; and on the other Side of the Perforation there was an *Ulcer* near the ſame Bigneſs. The whole Stomach was a great deal thicker than uſual; but that Part next the *Pylorus* was above Four Times thicker than in a natural State. It *adher'd* cloſely to all the Parts about it; and to the *Pancreas* 'twas ſo firmly ty'd down, that it could not be ſeparated without tearing. The Spleen did not exceed a Quarter of an Ounce in Weight. The *Pancreas* was *ſchirrous*, tho' pretty near its natural Size. In the *Liver* and *Kidneys* there was no apparent Defect; nor had the Parts in the *Thorax* receiv'd any viſible Alteration, except that the *Lungs* adher'd more firmly to the *Pleura* than uſual. The *Inteſtines* and all the *Viſcera* contain'd in the *Abdomen* were of a whiter Colour than uſual, by being ſo long ſodden in the Liquor they floated in.